5/24/70

Dear Paul,

As you asked, I raised with Bud the question of his writing N.O. for certain things. Bud rarely reacts violently to anything. In this case, his was as close to a violent negative reaction as he is ordinarily capable of. Despite what you said his files shows, he claims there is so slight a propsect of any response it is futility and he is opposed to it.

After speaking to you, I recalled having done this on my own several times, hence could anticipate his reaction. Therefore, I made another initiative of my own, of which I sent you a copy and to which there has, as yet, been no response.

I remain convinced the only probable means is through Vince, and I leave that to you, Gary and I both having tried and both having failed. (On transcripts.) I do not mean to suggest you also will fail, but I think Vince's strange attitude presents a very serious problem.

The only way I have been able to reach him in the recent past is through what I regard as his paranoia. If you do not succeed, then I can again try this way. But I now have things that must be done that deny me the required time and I think that should be reserved for a last effort only.

Jim writes exceptionally well, but also exceptionally laboriously and slowly. I suspect he is deeply preoccupied with his book and is giving almost anything very little attention. Having his own concepts and attitudes and his own special position, where what would worry others in political life is of no concern to him, Jim can be and I think is the one floating lemming, so he can't be depended upon to react to what almost anyone else would regard as to his personal interest.

This is not an easy combination of circumstances with which to cope. Helping those who will not help themselves is at best difficult, as is getting help from those who are utterly indifferent.

Sincerely,